

**REMARKS**

Claims 7-8 were pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of March 6, 2006, claim 7-8 were rejected as anticipated by Honda et al., USP 5708543. Additionally, several objections were raised regarding the title and the abstract of the disclosures.

In response, the title and abstract of the disclosure have been amended to overcome the objections. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify the invention. New claims 9-11 have been added to covered a more detailed embodiment of the invention.. See paragraphs [0036]-[0039] of the August 19, 2004 publication US**20040158974** of this application. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the claims are patentable and that the application in is condition for allowance.

Regarding the alleged anticipation of claims 7-8 by Honda et al., the claims clearly distinguish over the cited art.

In relevant part, claim 7 recites:

forming a groove at an end portion of the slide contact plane other than the end faces of the magnetic core halves on the slide contact plane; and

forming a nonmagnetic portion by filling the groove with a non-magnetic glass material.

In relevant part, claim 9 recites:

forming a pair of grooves along said target surface, each groove extending longitudinally along the single block and positioned between the thin metal magnetic film and an outer lateral edge of the single block;

filling the grooves with a non-magnetic glass material; and

cutting individual magnetic heads from said single block to produce a magnetic head with a slide contact plane having end portions comprising non-magnetic material.

In both claims, the resulting magnetic head has a non-magnetic portion formed at an outer end of the slide contact plane other than at the end faces of the core halves.

This is clearly unlike *Honda et al.*, where the nonmagnetic portions are next to the nonmagnetic gap. There simply is no disclosure of a head such as that claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn. The application now being in condition for allowance, notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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